

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/757,130

Examiner

Hai C. Pham

Applicant(s)

FIELDS ET AL.

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 06/12/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8,10,11,14-20 and 23-25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 is patentable because of the specific method for minimizing visual artifacts in an electrophotographic machine by obtaining correction data relative to a bowed image, offsetting a portion of the non-bowed image data based on the correction data and additionally based on the halftone cell growth of a halftone cell, and accelerating a pel shift to a previous halftone cell in the scan direction of the laser beam. The combined limitations as currently claimed are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record considered alone or in combination.

Claim 11 is patentable because of the specific method for minimizing visual artifacts in an electrophotographic machine by obtaining correction data relative to a bowed image, offsetting a portion of the non-bowed image data based on the correction data and additionally based on the halftone cell growth of a halftone cell, and delaying a pel shift to a subsequent halftone cell in the scan direction of the laser beam. The combined limitations as currently claimed are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record considered alone or in combination.

Claim 14 is patentable because of the specific controller used in an electrophotographic machine, the controller controlling a shifting of at least one pel in the process direction dependent on a location of said at least one pel in the scan direction and dependent upon a position of said at least one pel in a halftone cell, the controller accessing correction information to define said location and shifting another pel prior to said location in the scan direction. The combined limitations as currently

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claimed are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record considered alone or in combination.

Claim 15 is patentable because of the specific controller used in an electrophotographic machine, the controller controlling a shifting of at least one pel in the process direction dependent on a location of said at least one pel in the scan direction and dependent upon a position of said at least one pel in a halftone cell, the controller accessing correction information to define said location and shifting another pel subsequent to said location in the scan direction. The combined limitations as currently claimed are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record considered alone or in combination.

Claim 16 is patentable because of the specific controller used in an electrophotographic machine, the controller controlling a shifting of at least one pel in the process direction dependent on a location of said at least one pel in the scan direction and dependent upon a position of said at least one pel in a halftone cell, the controller changing said location if said at least one pel is on a border of said halftone cell. The combined limitations as currently claimed are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record considered alone or in combination.

Claim 16 is patentable because of the specific controller used in an electrophotographic machine, the controller controlling a shifting of at least one pel in the process direction dependent on a location of said at least one pel in the scan direction and dependent upon a position of said at least one pel in a halftone cell, the controller changing said location to a pel that is one of at a center of said halftone cell in

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said scan direction and proximate to said center of said halftone cell in said scan direction. The combined limitations as currently claimed are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record considered alone or in combination.

Claim 18 is patentable because of the specific method of shifting a scan line in an electrophotographic machine, the method comprising receiving non-bowed data, shifting of at least one pel of said non-bowed data in the process direction dependent on a location of said at least one pel in the scan direction and dependent upon a position of said at least one pel in a halftone cell, outputting said at least one pel as a part of the scan line, accessing correction information to define said location and shifting another pel prior to said location in the scan direction. The combined limitations as currently claimed are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record considered alone or in combination.

Claim 23 is patentable because of the specific method of shifting a scan line in an electrophotographic machine, the method comprising receiving non-bowed data, shifting of at least one pel of said non-bowed data in the process direction dependent on a location of said at least one pel in the scan direction and dependent upon a position of said at least one pel in a halftone cell, outputting said at least one pel as a part of the scan line, accessing correction information to define said location and shifting another pel subsequent to said location in the scan direction. The combined limitations as currently claimed are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record considered alone or in combination.

Claim 24 is patentable because of the specific method of shifting a scan line in an electrophotographic machine, the method comprising receiving non-bowed data, shifting of at least one pel of said non-bowed data in the process direction dependent on a location of said at least one pel in the scan direction and dependent upon a position of said at least one pel in a halftone cell, outputting said at least one pel as a part of the scan line, and changing said location if said at least one pel is on a border of said halftone cell. The combined limitations as currently claimed are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record considered alone or in combination.

Claim 24 is patentable because of the specific method of shifting a scan line in an electrophotographic machine, the method comprising receiving non-bowed data, shifting of at least one pel of said non-bowed data in the process direction dependent on a location of said at least one pel in the scan direction and dependent upon a position of said at least one pel in a halftone cell, outputting said at least one pel as a part of the scan line, and changing said location to a pel that is one of at a center of said halftone cell in said scan direction and proximate to said center of said halftone cell in said scan direction. The combined limitations as currently claimed are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record considered alone or in combination.

Claims 2-8, 10 and 19-20 are allowed because they are directly or indirectly dependent from claims 1 and 18 above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably


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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-2260. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vip Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2458. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

July 22, 2006